

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1 and 11 as follows:

1. (Amended) An injection mold for applying a cover layer to golf balls, comprising
  - (a) upper and lower support plates each containing at least one hemispherical cavity, said upper and lower hemispherical cavities being adapted to mate to define at least one spherical cavity when said plates are brought together;
  - (b) a plurality of retractable core pins arranged in said lower support plates and extendable into each of said lower hemispherical cavities for supporting a core of a golf ball within said spherical cavity; and
  - (c) means for supplying fluid thermoplastic material to each of said cavities to form a cover on the golf ball core, said supplying means including a valve pin arranged in a gate in said upper plate in a center of said upper hemispherical cavity adjacent to a pole of the golf ball formed in said cavity, said valve pin being operable between a first position wherein said pin extends into said cavity to engage the core and to allow thermoplastic material to enter the cavity and surround the core, a second position wherein said pin is retracted into said upper support plate out of contact with the core to allow thermoplastic material to fill the cavity, and a third position between said first and second positions wherein said pin closes said gate to stop the supply of thermoplastic material into said cavity; and

(d) a vent pin arranged in an opening in said lower plate communicating with said cavity to vent air therefrom during supply of thermoplastic material.

2. (Original) An injection mold as defined in claim 1, and further comprising means for displacing said valve pin between said first, second, and third positions.

3. (Original) An injection mold as defined in claim 2, wherein said supplying means further comprises a heated manifold for maintaining said thermoplastic material in a fluid state for injection into said cavity.

4. (Original) An injection mold as defined in claim 2, wherein said valve pin has a contoured lower surface to form a dimple at the pole of the golf ball when said valve pin is in said third position.

5. (Original) An injection mold as defined in claim 1, wherein said retractable core pins are arranged laterally and equally spaced about said lower hemispherical cavity.

6. (Original) An injection mold as defined in claim 1, wherein said retractable core pins are equally spaced about said lower hemispherical cavity and have longitudinal axes arranged substantially perpendicular to parting lines defined where said cavities terminate at a surface of said plates.

7-10. Canceled.

11. (Amended) An injection mold for applying a cover layer to golf balls, comprising

- (a) upper and lower support plates each containing at least one hemispherical cavity, said upper and lower hemispherical cavities being adapted to mate to define at least one spherical cavity when said plates are brought together;

- (b) a plurality of retractable core pins arranged in said lower support plates and extendable into each of said lower hemispherical cavities for supporting a core of a golf ball within said spherical cavity; and
- (c) means for supplying fluid thermoplastic material to each of said cavities to form a cover on the golf ball core, said supplying means including a valve pin arranged in a gate in said upper plate in a center of said upper hemispherical cavity adjacent to a pole of the golf ball formed in said cavity, said valve pin including a lower end having a diameter corresponding with an opening in said gate and a narrow portion above said lower end having a diameter less than the diameter of said lower end, said valve pin being operable between a first position wherein said pin extends into said cavity to engage the core and to allow thermoplastic material to enter the cavity past said valve pin narrow portion and through said gate opening to surround the core, a second position wherein said pin is retracted into said upper support plate out of contact with the core to allow unrestricted flow of thermoplastic material to fill the cavity; and a third position between said first and second positions wherein said pin lower end closes said gate to stop the supply of thermoplastic material into said cavity; and
- (d) a vent pin arranged in an opening in said lower plate communicating with said cavity to vent air therefrom during supply of thermoplastic material.